

S 354

Strengthening Local Processing Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 9, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S317-319)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S317-319) (Feb 9, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/354>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 9, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 9, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 945	Identical bill	Mar 13, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Strengthening Local Processing Act of 2023

This bill revises provisions related to meat and poultry processing establishments, including smaller establishments (i.e., at least 10 but fewer than 500 employees) and very small establishments (i.e., fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than \$2.5 million).

For example, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) must establish a searchable database of peer-reviewed validation studies for use in developing Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for smaller and very small establishments.

The bill increases the maximum federal cost share from 50% to 65% that USDA may provide to assist states in creating meat and poultry inspection programs.

Additionally, USDA must conduct outreach with states that have meat and poultry inspection programs, but that do not have Cooperative Interstate Shipment programs. The Cooperative Interstate Shipment program allows state-inspected facilities to operate as federally-inspected facilities and ship their products in interstate commerce and internationally.

USDA must also award competitive grants for activities to increase resiliency and diversification of the meat processing system, including activities that support (1) the health and safety of meat and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and customers; (2) increased processing capacity; and (3) the resilience of the small meat and poultry processing sector.

Further, the bill establishes grant programs to (1) establish or expand meat and poultry processing career training programs at community colleges, vocational schools, nonprofit organizations, worker training centers, and universities; and (2) support smaller and very small establishments by offsetting the cost of training new meat and poultry processors.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 9, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 9, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S317-319)